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MONDAY, MARCH 16TH, 1857. (Stated Meeting.)

JAMES HENTHORN TODD, D.D., PRESIDENT, in the Chair.

THE Secretary of the Council read the following Report from the Council:—

REPORT.

In presenting their Report for the past year, the Council have, in the first place, to call the attention of the Academy to the progress which has been made in publishing their Transactions since the 16th of March last.

The First Part of the Twenty-Third Volume has been published, containing Mr. Donovan's paper on "Galvanometric Deflexion," Mr. Haughton's paper on "The Solar and Lunar Diurnal Tides on the Irish Coast," and Mr. Mallet's paper on "The Physical Conditions involved in the Construction of Artillery."

It will be remembered that the observations upon which Mr. Haughton's highly valuable paper is based were undertaken by the Academy in the year 1850. The Council have to congratulate the Academy on the valuable result which Mr. Haughton's zeal and ability have deduced from the task which they undertook,—a result which they hope will soon be completed by the discussion of the question of Semi-Diurnal Tides.

Another Science Part of the Twenty-Third Volume of the Transactions is in progress.

Mr. Salmon's paper on "Reciprocal Surfaces" has been printed off. Mr. Renny's paper on "The Hygrometric Correction of Barometrical Measurement," and Professor Downing's paper on "The Draining of the Haarlem Lake," are both in type; and Mr. Forster's paper on "The Molecular Formation of Crystals" is in the compositor's hands.

Towards a Polite Literature Part of the same Volume, the following progress has been made:—

Dr. Hincks' paper on "The Personal Pronouns of the Assyrian Language," and on "A Tablet in the British Museum," have been printed off; as also the Rev. Dr. Wills' paper on "Dreams."

In Antiquities, a paper by the President on "An Ancient Irish Missal" has been printed off.

In the publication of the last Numbers of the Proceedings there has been an unavoidable delay, in consequence of the difficulty in obtaining an exact report of Mr. Kemble's valuable communication. This, however, is merely an accidental obstruction, and will soon be removed. The Proceedings have, with this exception, appeared regularly.

Before leaving this part of the subject, the Council are happy to inform the Academy that they have concluded an arrangement with the Royal Society of London, in virtue of which that body will undertake the circulation in England and on the Continent of the Scientific Part of our Proceedings;—the expense of printing the additional numbers required to be borne by the Academy; and the expense of postage by the Royal Society. The additional publicity thus given to our labours cannot fail to have a beneficial effect.

During the past year we have had the following contributions to our Transactions and Proceedings:—

In Pure Mathematics we have had papers from Sir William R. Hamilton, Professor Boole, and Mr. Campbell.

In Mixed and Applied Mathematics, from Sir William R. Hamilton, Mr. Cayley, Professor Jellett, Professor Haughton, Professor Hennessy, Mr. Sanders, and Mr. Donovan.

In the Sciences of Observation and Experiment, from Dr. Robinson, Professor Haughton, and Dr. Barker.

In Polite Literature we have had a communication from Mr. Clibborn.

In Antiquities, from the President, Dr. Wilde, Dr. Petrie, Dr. Reeves, Mr. Haliday, Mr. Kemble, and Mr. Hitchcock.

The formation of a Catalogue of our Museum has long been a subject of anxiety to the Council, and it has been with great regret that they have hitherto found themselves unable to announce to the Academy that any sensible progress had been made in that work. On the present occasion, however, they are happy to have it in their

power to state that a very liberal proposal has been made to them by Mr. Wilde, stating his willingness to undertake the task of arranging and cataloguing the articles in the Museum, and laying before the Council an account of the plan upon which he proposes to perform this work. This proposal, which has been approved of by the Council, is to be found in their Minutes; and an estimate of the probable cost will be laid before you to-night. Should you approve of it, we have every reason to hope that this important work will be executed without further delay. Some difficulty has arisen from the request formerly made by the Board of Works,—that their contributions might be kept separate from others; but we have reason to hope that this request, which would render impossible a scientific arrangement of our Museum, will not be insisted on.

Meanwhile, it will be interesting to the Academy to learn that the work has already made some progress.

The stone articles have been arranged and classified. 106 engravings have been drawn on wood; twenty-five are already cut and in the printers' hands; and the first sheet of the Catalogue is in type.

The Council have entered upon the task of arranging and classifying the By-Laws, with a view to their being rendered more generally intelligible to the Members of the Academy. They have no doubt that this subject will be taken up by the new Council, and that the result of their labours will be shortly laid before you.

An important modification has been made in the law for promoting rotation on the Council. By this change the Vice-Presidents have been subjected to the rule which declares it expedient that the senior Member of each Committee should be removed; and it has been provided that this rule shall not take effect in any Committee in which a natural vacancy occurs.

Large additions have been made to the Library during the past year both by donation and purchase,—chiefly in the department of Irish History and Literature. The number of donations has been unusually large, including, as the Academy will remember, a valuable gift from the widow of the late R. Hitchcock, Esq.

The work of placing and cataloguing the printed books in the Library is now so far finished, that the south wall book-cases of the Gallery alone remain to be done. The Council therefore hope to

be able to realize shortly the suggestions thrown out by the President in his Inaugural Address, and adopt such plans for the future management of the Library as will make it ancillary to the threefold objects of the Academy.

During the past year we have lost seven Members by death. Their names are:—

HALIDAY BRUCE, Esq.; elected November 12, 1838: died December 4, 1856.

RIGHT REV. JAMES WILSON, D. D., Lord Bishop of Cork, Cloyne, and Ross; elected Oct. 28, 1822: died January, 1857.

JOHN FINLAY, LL. D.; elected December 11, 1837: died May 11, 1856.

REV. THOMAS D. HINCKS, LL. D.; elected March 16, 1803: died February, 1857.

JAMES PIM, Esq.; elected November 30, 1833: died November 13, 1856.

ISAAC WELD, Esq.; elected March 15, 1800: died August 4, 1856.

WILLIAM HENN, Esq.; elected May 12, 1845: died March 9, 1857.

Thirteen Members have been elected into the Academy since the last Annual Meeting. Their names are:—

Charles Copland, Esq.	Robert M'Dermott, Esq., M. B.
Nicholas Smith O'Gorman, Esq., A. M.	Rev. James M'Ivor, A. M.
	Sir Colman M. O'Loghlen, Bart.
G. Johnstone Stoney, Esq., A. M.	Robert Patterson, Esq.
Thomas H. Ledwich, Esq.	John R. Kinahan, Esq., M. B.
John H. Otway, Esq.	Frederick Field, Esq.
Dominick M'Causland, Esq.	Robert M'Donnell, Esq.

The following payments have been made by the Committee of Antiquities from 1st of April, 1856, to 16th of March, 1857, on account of the purchase of Antiquities for the Royal Irish Academy's Museum:—

F. A. Rourke, coins,	£0	10	0
W. F. Wakeman, balance of account,	3	0	0
D. Egan, antique dagger,	0	10	0
T. Kelly, an iron vessel,	0	10	0
R. Glennon, a collection of bronze, iron, and bone articles,	15	0	0
J. Carey, gold head-dress,	25	0	0
J. Johnson, repairs of same,	0	10	0
James O'Donnell, brass vessel,	1	0	0
	£46	0	0

The Ballot for the annual election of President, Council, and Officers, having been scrutinized in the face of the Academy, the President reported that the following gentlemen had been duly elected President, Council, and Officers for the ensuing year:—

President.—James Henthorn Todd, D. D.

Committee of Science.

Robert Ball, LL. D.; Sir Robert Kane, M. D.; Rev. Humphrey Lloyd, D. D.; Rev. George Salmon, A. M.; Sir William R. Hamilton, LL. D.; William H. Harvey, M. D.; Rev. Samuel Haughton.

Committee of Polite Literature.

Rev. William H. Drummond, D. D.; Rev. Charles Graves, D. D.; Rev. John H. Jellett, A. M.; Rev. G. Sidney Smith, D. D.; John Kells Ingram, LL. D.; John O'Donovan, LL. D.; Rev. Samuel Butcher, D. D.

Committee of Antiquities.

George Petrie, LL. D.; William R. Wilde, Esq.; Joseph Huband Smith, Esq.; Denis Henry Kelly, Esq.; Charles Haliday, Esq.; John T. Gilbert, Esq.; Rev. William Reeves, D. D.

Treasurer.—Robert Ball, LL. D.

Secretary to the Academy.—Rev. Charles Graves, D. D.

Secretary to the Council.—Rev. J. H. Jellett, A. M.

Secretary of Foreign Correspondence.—W. R. Wilde, Esq.

Librarian.—Rev. William H. Drummond, D. D.

Clerk, Assistant Librarian, and Curator of the Museum.—Mr. Edward Clibborn.

The President nominated, under his hand and seal, the following Vice-Presidents:—

Sir Robert Kane, M. D.; Rev. George Sidney Smith, D. D.; Rev. Humphrey Lloyd, D. D.; Rev. William Reeves, D. D.

Moved by the Rev. J. H. Jellett, and seconded by W. R. Wilde, Esq., and—

Resolved,—That the Council be authorized to expend a sum not exceeding £250, in the arranging and cataloguing of the Academy's Museum.

Moved by Frederick J. Sidney, Esq., and seconded by the Rev. John H. Jellett, and—

Resolved,—That a list of all additions to the Library during each year be printed and distributed to the Members along with the Annual Report—distinguishing purchases from donations—and specifying the proportion of the Annual Grant devoted to the several departments of Science, Polite Literature, and Antiquities.

Resolved,—That the Report, with this list as an Appendix, be adopted.